

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY. By J. M. Munro Kerr, M.D.,
F.R.F.P.S., F.C.O.G., Regius Professor of Midwifery, University of Glasgow.
1933. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone. pp. 382. Price 25s.

A book by such a distinguished obstetric surgeon and teacher as Professor Munro Kerr will attract widespread interest and attention. The author has treated the subject of maternal mortality and morbidity in a most thorough manner, and he deals with the problem from every conceivable angle; all the conditions affecting maternal mortality are reviewed, and the death-rate in these islands is compared, as far as possible, with other countries. The chapter on ante-natal care is particularly good, and the author has stressed a point mentioned by other writers, that ante-natal care as at present carried out is often quite inadequate. In this latter chapter several plates are included of abnormalities detected by X-ray photography, such as anencephalus, breech presentations with extended legs, twins, etc.

Obstetricians who are accustomed to the use of sedatives during labour will disagree with Professor Kerr's view that the less sedatives are used in a normal case the better it is for the patient. Sedative drugs in midwifery can be abused, and often are, but if they were used more frequently there would be fewer obstetrical disasters such as "failed forceps," which he and all teachers of obstetrics deplore. As might be expected in a first edition, there are a number of printer's errors, which will, presumably, be corrected in subsequent editions. The book will be invaluable to all interested in the subject, especially practising obstetricians and public health authorities.

—H. C. L.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—BELFAST DIVISION

THE Belfast Division began a very successful session on 26th October, when Dr. S. R. Hunter introduced his successor to the chair, Dr. George Lyttle. Dr. Lyttle spoke on "Some Experiments in Functional Sterility." He outlined his treatment, by large doses of ovarian extract, of such cases as had no causal lesion calling for operative interference. He had been successful in the majority of his cases, in all but one of which dilatation and curettage had been tried without success.

On 9th November, the Division welcomed a very distinguished Queensman in the person of Colonel W. P. McArthur, Professor of Medicine at the Royal Army Medical College. Colonel McArthur gave a brilliant paper, based on his work on cysticercus infection in man. Cases were rare, and were usually soldiers who had served in India. Subcutaneous nodules appeared, which on excision proved to be cysts, and these, developing in the brain, produced fits, usually of an epileptiform type, and later mental deterioration and insanity. When the larvæ died, calcification occurred, and numerous radiographic slides were shown illustrating this condition.

The following month Dr. Hennessy, our Irish secretary, paid us a welcome visit, addressing us on "The Position of the British Medical Association in Ireland," and on 8th February, Dr. S. B. Boyd Campbell gave a clear and exceedingly practical account of "Modern Treatment of the Anæmias," which was much appreciated by the members present. The same meeting approved the modified ethical rules proposed by the Central Ethical Committee.

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